

*J.M. Wright Technical High School
Citizens Advisory Council*

Alfred Sanseverino
Chairman
J.M Wright Tech. Citizens Advisory Council

Testimony Supporting H.B. 6370
An act concerning a middle college system

Co-Chairman of the Education Committee, Representative Fleischman and Senator Gaffey, I want to thank you and your distinct members of the Education Committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today on behalf of the J.M. Wright Technical High School Citizen's Advisory Council in Support of Governor Rell's bill, H.B. 6370: An Act Concerning a Middle College System.

I am the owner of Camsan, an electrical contractor in Stamford, CT. I'm the second generation and my son is now the third. We have hired close to 100 students from Wright Tech since it opened over 50 years ago. I am a graduate of Wright Tech and I am the President of the Wright Tech Alumni Association. My employees are the lifeblood of my business. I have served on the Citizens Advisory Council for well over ten years and have served as its Chairman for the last six years.

The Citizens Advisory Council feels that Wright Tech has not been treated fairly by the State Vocational Technical High School for many years. Rehabilitation of the building has been put on the back burner for at least ten years. It is very frustrating for us because the state is constantly releasing reports that suggest the school should be closed, which the state Board of Education recommended in the upcoming year's budget. This has a very negative impact on enrollment. This has happened in one fashion or another five times, since I have become Chairman of the council. We have worked very hard to help improve the conditions at the school and improve enrollment. We have taken money out of our own pockets to help in this effort.

The Council had discussed and debated the concept of creating a combined technical high school and the community colleges. We are unanimous in our support for this bill. We also recognize that there is much work to do on this bill in order to get it in final form so it can be voted on by both the house and the senate. The Citizen Advisory Council pledges its support to help make this happen.

In closing on behalf of my fellow council members I want to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak to you. Please support this bill. Thank you.